

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

Visalia, California – May 2026 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks



Lodge Meetings

Wed May 13, 2026 – Business

Wed May 27, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed May 13, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed May 13, 2026

(You must call or e-mail in advance to be on the agenda)

Bunco Night - May 12th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

No Taco Tuesday in May - come to Taco Throwdown MMay 16th) to satisfy your taco craving

Poker Night

May 7th & 21st - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast – May 10th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night: May 15th

Friday Lunches – Check “What’s Happening” email for dates/menus

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 26/27 Edition #2

News Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received on the 20th of each month to be included in the next newsletter. Send to:

kristy@rknstudio.com



“EXALTED RULER’S CORNER”

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As members of this great Lodge, we are reminded that Elkdom is built on the foundation of brotherhood—supporting one another, strengthening our community, and living out the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. It is through these shared values that we create a welcoming environment where friendships grow, service thrives, and our impact reaches far beyond our Lodge walls. Each handshake, each act of kindness, and each moment of service reinforces the bond we proudly share as Elks.

As we look ahead to the month of May, we have an exciting lineup of events that reflect both our camaraderie and commitment to tradition.

Join us for our lively Kentucky Derby Party, celebrate and honor the special women in our lives at the Mother’s Day Breakfast followed by the meaningful Mother’s Day Ritual in the Lodge Room, and don’t miss the fun and flavor of our First Annual Taco Throwdown.

Several of the lodge members will be attending the State Convention in Palm Springs May 13-16. We will be attending classes which will hopefully help us make the lodge better.

One of my goals for this year is to increase our giving to our Major Project (purple pig) and The Elks National foundation. This can be done by straight donations or sign up at chea-elks.org or grab a sign up sheet off of the bulletin board. Donations can be as low as five dollars a month.

Happy May,

Scott Nelson
Exalted Ruler
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Visit us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/visaliaelkslodge

Lodge Officers 2025/2026

Exalted Ruler	Scott Nelson
Leading Knight.	Chuck Fishel
Loyal Knight.	Eva Rasmussen
Lecturing Knight	Cristy Hoff
Esquire	Charles Cornelius
Chaplain	Ted Donald
Inner Guard	Jane Donald
Tiler	Ryan Samuels
Secretary	Wendy O'Connor
Treasurer	Mike Saulque

Trustees:

1-Year	Ron Marshall
2-Year	Eli Ledesma
3-Year	Rodney Jared
4-Year	Kevin Colopy
5-Year	Shawn Cooper

Past Exalted Rulers *

Ronald Mathis - 1976-77
Larry Paxton - 1978-79
John Peters - 1989-90
Jim Hay - 1991-92
Robert Casey - 1992-93
Al Hack - 1995-96
Rob Van Wagoner - 1999-2000
Joe Alberti - 2004-05, 05-06, 05-16
Ted Donald - 2006-07
Jan Lee - 2016-17, 17-18
Ray Lewis - 2018-19, 19-20
Ron Marshall - 2020-21
Eli Ledesma - 2021-22
Mike Saulque - 2022-23
Russell McKinney - 2023-24
Kevin Colopy - 2024-25
Joe Paddock - 2025-26

**Active in Good Standing*

Past Exalted Rulers from other lodges:

Ken Bridges Tulare # 1424
Pat Dugan Tulare #1424
Stephen Nelms Watsonville #1300

Member News:

Orientation and Initiation

Next Orientation is May 27th at 5:30pm. Ball Room #2

Orientation is MANDATORY for all candidates. Because of our current situation, only candidates and sponsors will be allowed to attend.

This is the beginning of the learning process of the BPOE and what we are all about.

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and candidates will have dinner on us.

Only members and candidates are allowed in the lodge room. The members lounge will be closed during the initiation and lodge meeting. Expect about an hour. No beverages are allowed in the lodge room.

Note to Sponsors: Please make reservations for your candidates and notify them of the above listed times. Sponsors should escort their candidates to orientation, dinner and initiation. **Attire is business casual.**

**NO SHORTS, FLIP FLOPS,
"T-SHIRTS OR JEANS DURING
THE INITIATION...**

Candidates for voting this May 13, 2026

Donna Bueno by Melanie McKimmons
Terry Deck by John Tyler
Abel Huerta by John Tyler
Gregory Jackson by Marco Uranga
Monica Marquez by Teresa Gilson
Susan Nejman by Deanna Souza
Ygnacio Onsurez Jr. by James Avila
Selina Park by Joshua Jump
Leticia Saenz by Maarco Vaca
Rachel Sausedo by Rigo Seja
Steve Tamayo by Benjamin Resa
Humberto Valero Jr. by Michael Vaca

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CALLING ALL PATRIOTS!!

The Avenue of Flags Military Veterans Association and the Wreaths Across America committee are asking for volunteers to assist in placing flags at the Visalia District Cemetery.

We will meet that day at 6:00 am. In the cool of the morning, we will have a short briefing, then begin placing the flags. After a short break, we will begin attaching the flags to the poles or placing the poles in the ground.

At 4:00 pm, we meet back at the cemetery to retrieve the flags and return them to the storage area. Please bring a wagon or vehicle so the flags can be returned to storage.

There are many helpers in the past, but there is always room for more. We appreciate any time you can give, even if just an hour. It's a great way to honor our Veterans and a beautiful sight.

Come join us and please contact Bill (731-4837) or Laurel (284-0044) with questions. We need our volunteers to make this a success!!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S NOT GETTING THE BULLETIN?

Help them get the info they need by visiting our website:

www.visaliaelks.org - there's a subscription box on the home page where they can enter their name and email address.

Subscribing will get them signed up to receive the monthly bulletin as well as the weekly **What's Happening This Week** via their email once it's posted.

VISALIA ELKS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Auditing Accounting	Jan Lee PER
Americanism	Richard Grissom
Beqs. & Living Trusts	Melanie McKimmons
Business Practices	Wendy O'Connor
Drug Awareness	Abel Lopez
Government Relations	Jordan Mulrooney
Hoop Shoot	Kelly Elkins
Insurance & Safety	Rodney Jared
Lodge Activities	Wendy O'Connor
Membership Retention	Ron Marshall
National Foundation ENF	Melanie McKimmons
Natl Foundation Grants	Kevin Colopy
Nat Vets Service	Rebecca Peterson
Officers Training	Eli Ledesma PER
Public Relations	Tom O'Connor
Major Project	Melanie McKimmons
Ritual Training	Ray Lewis PER
Scholarships	Bill Flores
Youth Activities	Cheyenne Carrell

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

4-1-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Pam Nelson, Monique Mirwald, Laura Crawford, Lucille Kreps, Peggy Gruber, Heather Cornelius, Debbi Gerbig, Tina Aguilar, Marco Vaca, Julie Egri, Shayla Crawford, Greg Todd, Richie Garza, Laua Bullene Laurel Flores

4-4-26 Kid's Easter Party

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan and Jamie Ensminger

Crew: Bill & LaDean Pierce, Amanda & Alyana Azevedo, Melanie McKimmons, Holly Derrington, Laurel Flores, Tiffany Lowe, Justin Kinderknect, Mary Lou Forpahl, Andrea Fermie, Payton Lowe, Debbi Gerbig, Skyler Kincaid

4-8-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kalen Stinson

Crew: Joanne Stinson, Oscar Acevedo, Eric Saenz, Letty Saenz, Debbi Gerbig, Camille A Fisher, Violet Garcia, Amanda Acevedo, John Gerbig, Skyler Kincaid, Heather Cornelius, Laurel Flores

4-12-26 Veteran's Breakfast (next column)

4-15-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Scott Nelson

Crew: Rod Jared, Stacey Jared, Kevin Coloopy, Cristy Hoff, Ryan Samuels, Charles Cornelius, Phil Moreno, Bif Fishel, Carlos Fishel, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

4-17-26 Cook Your Own Dinner

Team Leader: Kevin Colopy

Crew: Eva Rasmussen, Keith Carlos, JT Groover, Greg Costa, Eli Ledesma, Chuck Fishel, Ryan Samuels, Christy Hoff, Brian Fishel, Dylan Casares, Heather Cornelius, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

4-12-26 Veteran's Breakfast - served 312 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Thanks to all that helped on Saturday after the Tea Party

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa, Michelle Nelson

Front Lounge: Eric Fishel & Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Rodney Jared, Ernie Alvarado, Janie Donald, Stacey West & Ryan Samuels, Eli Ledesma

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder and Jeff Turner – Gravy

Phil Fortney – Bacon

Scott Nelson – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy

John Kennedy – Pancakes & French Toast

Amy Gordan, Lisa Morehouse – Sausage, potatoes & bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break, Joey Freitas and Shane Souza

Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Kristy Samuels, Eva

Rasmussen, Brian Fishel, Ron Vasquez and Phil Moreno

Bussers: Girl Scouts #7332

4-22-26 Wednesday Night Dinner (Initiation)

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Harry Buckner, Debbie Buckner, DeeDee Rains, Gerri Giotta, Mindy Morgan, Rae Crawford, Christina Ritchie, Don Smith, Becky Kennedy, Danny Ludlow, Phil Moreno, Laura Bellene, Laurel Flores

Please note: If you'd like your cooking team to get credit in the bulletin, please be sure to fill out the form and turn it into the office. We only publish what we get submitted.



*A Coin a Day so they can
Walk, Talk, See and Play!*

PURPLE PIG THANK YOU'S

Major Project/Purple Pig

THANK YOU and a Tip o' the hat from the Purple Pig -
"A coin a day so they'll walk, talk, see and play"

Your generosity helps us continue the important work of supporting children in need through the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project.

A Friendly reminder:

When you turn your Purple Piggy in to the Office or Social Quarters, be SURE your name is on or in it. Several have come through without knowing who to credit. Even small totals are cumulative towards the Millennium Club recognitions.

Upcoming Events:



Kentucky Derby Party - May 2nd
12pm-4pm



1298 Cigar Club - May 14th

If you enjoy a good cigar or you're just curious about cigars, this will give members an opportunity to meet once a month. 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.



Veteran's Mother's Day Breakfast - April 10th

Eggs/Omelet bar, Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, French toast, Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy - 8:30 to 11:00am
Adults - \$18.00 | Kids under 12yrs - \$15
Veterans - FREE



Taco Throwdown - May 16th

11am-3pm



Bunco Night - Tues May 12th

Check-in Starts at 5:30pm - Dice start rolling at 6pm

Upcoming Events (cont):



Sip Happens Sundays May 24th

More details will be posted in Member's FB Group and in the What's Happening Email!



VAGABONDS TRAVELS



Vagabonds Rally Recap – Orange Grove RV Park
The Vagabonds had an amazing time at Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield—truly one of our best rallies yet! With 22 rigs in attendance, it was a great turnout filled with fun, laughter, and wonderful company.

Everyone enjoyed a variety of activities including rnfot baseball, blackout bingo, and the always-popular Left, Right, Center game. Saturday night brought plenty of excitement with the horse races, which had everyone laughing and cheering.

We were also happy to welcome new members into the Vagabonds family—it's always great to see our group grow.

As always, the meals were delicious, the conversations were lively, and the laughter was nonstop. Add in some beautiful weather, and it made the rally even more special. We're already looking forward to the next one—hope to see you there!

Frank and Kathy Kelly

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Josef J. Greene
Area Director of Community Development

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These good folks have donated to help keep our monthly newsletter coming to each and every one of our members. We appreciate their consideration. If you are interested in being a sponsor in future bulletins, please contact the office. The cost is \$100 a year and it can be prorated if needed.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Members with a birthday this month get a FREE dinner on any dinner of the month, including Friday Steak Night. (Excludes Prime Rib, Rib Nights, Fireside Dinners, Crab and Shrimp Feeds. Get A Free Beverage on your birthday in the lounge.

- 1 Allen Batty
Lorianne Boken
Marcos DeLaCruz
Sharon Robison
- 2 Charles Christ
Jordan Gardner
Gina Manfredi
Cecelia Vaca
- 3 Karen Bratcher
Brian Fisher
Robert Lee
Rick Vasquez
- 4 Lori Harding
Roxanne Robinson
Frank Torres
Ralph Wilson
- 5 Trevor Fishel
Coleen Gleason
- 6 Jason Bueno
Kimberly Chance
Christopher Kelly
Jon Swift
- 7 Robert Davis
Lawrence Headley
- 8 David Anaya
Rebecca Borges
Cynthia Dias
Thomas Slobig
- 9 Mario Hampton
John Martinez
Iva Rupp
- 10 Michael Rowland
- 11 Keith Gilbert
Duke Hettick
Chance Kirk
- 12 Gloria Amador
Kent Huckaby
Darren Peterson
James Plough
April Skye Parsons
- 13 Carl Aiello
Larry Giotto
Anna Miller
- 14 Thomas Bauer
Marilyn Houston
Ryan Park
Jesus Rodriguez
Lori Wheeler
- 15 Alfred Flores
Steve McElmoyl
- 16 David Freitas
Melanie McKimmons
Rusty Nelson
Ericka Swiney
Emily Whitson

- 17 Jane Donald
Erik Gonzalez
Kelsey Nichols
- 18 Sam Porterfield
- 19 Robert Tunnell
- 20 Casey Fields
Donald Fowler
Steve Lawrence
Harold Maniloff
Timothy Reser
Steve Shahan
Heather Simon
- 21 Garrett Moore
Joe Rodriguez
Ruby Sanchez
James Skaggs
Richard White
- 23 Russ Carrell
Jodi Chesser
Richard Guerrero
Richard Junio
Michele Price
Steven Spate
J Sullivan
- 24 Scott Reeder
George Renteria
Michael Roberts
- 25 Brandon Montgomery
- 26 Shanna Allison
Philip Jones
Tiffane McRoberts
Damon Terstegge
- 27 Emily Gonzales
Paul Gorley
Craig Moody
Roger Rye
- 28 Thomas Clark
Jeff Wheeler
- 29 David Gosvener
Jon Handly
Raymond Lewis
- 31 Rico Castro
Evan Palmer



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